

CONNECTION

LIBRARY OF CALIFORNIA

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Commitment to the library community



By Sarah Dalton
Connection Editor

On May 13, 2003 Sarah Haman, a Mendocino librarian, emailed California's library community. Haman wrote:

The budget cuts are causing us to consider reducing services considered essential to libraries...we must cut either reference or children's services. What would you do?

In response, one reader suggested Haman keep the reference services because a reference librarian can "cover" children's needs, an option for a rural library.

After September 11, 2001, State Librarian Dr. Kevin Starr wrote in the October 2001 *Connection* that "it is more important than ever that the library community reaffirm its core commitment to knowledge, democracy, moral and intellectual value." Almost two years later, we see this *commitment* to, and faith in, the library community, in Haman's turning to her peers for a solution to her library's financial problems.

In California today, organizations big and small, public and private, rural and urban, must make, like Haman, tough choices to survive. The California State Library (CSL) is no exception. *Connection* is going to take a brief hiatus while California's economy recharges.

Connection, California's Libraries and the Library of California

Connection has reflected the socio-economic climate of California's library landscape since *Connection* went online in July 2000. The article, "California libraries joining digital forces," for example, which headlined *Connection's* first issue, was about linking the Library of California (LoC) with the University of California's (UC) digital library, an

exemplary benchmark of the LoC's growth at the time.

Since then, *Connection* has continued to track the LoC's crucial programs. The following are key articles about the LoC that have appeared in *Connection*: "Seven regional library networks are set to go" - January 2001; "The Library of California in plain language" - August 2001; "Meet our Library of California Libraries: School Libraries" - September 2001. Last January, "New LoC board forges ahead despite state budget challenges," foretold today's fiscal climate.

CSL Writers

Over the past three years, *Connection* has had an added edge because of the library professionals who write regularly for *Connection*.

Chris Berger, a member of the *Connection* editorial team and a librarian in the California State Library's Library Development Services bureau, has been invaluable to this publication. Berger's clear reporting on LoC board meetings and events has kept California's library community up to date on LoC's decisions and changes. His knowledge of the LoC's inner workings, paired with his sharp writing and editing skills, has made *Connection* sing.

Liz Gibson, former chief of the CSL's Library Development Services bureau, and a member of the *Connection* editorial team, has produced erudite articles on complex library programs for three years. Gibson's expertise on Library Services and Technology (LSTA) matters, on Outcome Measures, on statewide library statistics and on editing, among others,

has given *Connection* a particularly professional edge. In February 2002, for example, she reported on California library statistics online and in March 2002 (with Rhea J. Rubin) on *Bibliostat Collect* - small examples of Gibson's talent for blending traditional librarianship with 21st century technologies.

Since 2000 and the passing of the *California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act* (a.k.a. the Bond Act), the Office of Library Construction (OLC) at the CSL has become a force in the growth and development of California's libraries. In *Connection*, readers have had access to the OLC's timelines and awards through a regular OLC page on which bond act director, Richard Hall, and his talented team at the OLC, have made complex fiscal announcements and processes accessible for *Connection's* readers - an invaluable service.

But the OLC staff has gone beyond reporting on the OLC's current projects. August 2002's issue had an explanatory piece about the hot topic, joint use facilities, called "Overview: Joint Use School and Public Library Facilities in California" by Linda Springer, deputy bond act manager and Patricia Brown Zografos, technical assistance consultant in the Office of Library Construction.

Special Thanks

Connection has greatly benefited from the work of many talented writers at the CSL. The CSL 21 issue in November 2002 held diverse and engaging articles from a team in the CSL's State Library Services bureau. And, many of *Connection's* gifted contributors have been from the CSL's Library Development Services bureau - a hearty and sincere "thank you" to each.

Guest Writers

Connection's distinguished guest writers have contributed articles that have greatly expanded *Connection's* content.

In April 2001, Steve Sloan of the Sunnyvale Public Library wrote "Digital storytelling in Sunnyvale." Over the years, Dan Theobald of i2i Communications has written a few articles about videoconferencing, the first of which was "Videoconferencing: A boon to rural libraries" in June 2001. In December 2001, Gregg Atkins, dean of learning resources at Sacramento City

College, examined the challenges at the community college library in "Working in the best and worst of times: community college libraries and learning resource centers." In January 2002, Patricia Cruse, content development manager, California Digital Library, contributed the timely "Counting California: government information access made easy." In February 2002, Roberto Esteves, chief of information resources, San Francisco Public Library and secretary of the Golden Gateway Library Network, revealed the Golden Gateway Library Network's experiment in electronic service development in "e-books ready or not!"

Rhea J. Rubin, in March 2002, teamed with Liz Gibson to write "California Libraries plan on five more years of LSTA." FILL Project Coordinator, Cindy Mediavilla wrote "From Interns to Library Leaders: Filling Public Library vacancies in Los Angeles." Natalie Cole, director of the California Center for the Book, explained the successful "California Reads *The Grapes of Wrath*" in October 2002. Barbara Jeffus, school library consultant for the California Department of Education, wrote about the LoC's school libraries in September 2001, the same month that consultant Steve Mauer wrote about library book sales projects.

Style Changes

Since July 2000, the *Connection* editorial team has implemented changes and additions to *Connection* that, we hope, increased the publication's usefulness and appeal. The popular *Training Corner* first appeared in May 2001. To acknowledge our distinguished contributors' work, we added author titles in the February 2002 issue. For a magazine-feel, we began including more photographs in early 2001. Later that year, we added regular "Library Profiles" of different types of libraries within the LoC: the Sonoma State University library was first.

What's Next?

After the dust settles in California's budget, we anticipate *Connection* will be back on-line. In the meantime, to all our readers, have a wonderful summer.

Carl and Manor Advertising in Aptos, California has been responsible for *Connection's* look and feel: the Carl and Manor staff has been invaluable in the publication of this newsletter.



Training Corner

Provider: **Infopeople**

Course: *Developing Spanish and Latino Interest Collections
Using the Web and Online Sources*

Dates and locations:

Thursday, June 12, San Diego Public Library

<http://www.infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/109>

Provider: **Infopeople**

Course: *Technology Tuesdays -
Tips, Trends, and Tools of the Trade*

Dates and locations:

Tuesday, June 10, 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Productivity Technologies:

Handling the workload without adding staff

Tuesday, July 8, 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Piggyback Technologies:

Getting the most from the systems you already have

<http://www.infopeople.org/training/webcasts/>

Provider: **Infopeople**

Course: *More than Letters & Booklists:
Intermediate Microsoft Word*

Dates and locations:

Friday, June 13, Cerritos Public Library

Thursday, June 26, California State Library

<http://www.infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/134>

Provider: **Infopeople**

Course: *Developing Multimedia and Digital Resource
Collections for Teens*

Dates and locations:

Wednesday, June 11, Cerritos Public Library

Wednesday, September 24,

Contra Costa County Library-Pleasant Hill Lab

<http://www.infopeople.org/WS/workshop/Workshop/132>



2003

June

June 7-12, 2003

Special Libraries Association (SLA) Annual Conference, New York City

June 19-25, 2003

American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada

July

July 12-16, 2003

American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), Annual Conference, Seattle

October

October 15-16, 2003

Library of California board meeting, Sacramento

October 22-26, 2003

American Association of School Librarians (AASL)
National Conference, Kansas City, Missouri

November

November 15-17, 2003

California Library Association (CLA) Annual Conference, Ontario

2004

January

January 9-14, 2004

American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting, San Diego

February

February 18-19, 2004

LSTA Advisory Council on Libraries meeting, Sacramento

February 24-28, 2004

Public Library Association (PLA) National Conference, Seattle

June

June 24-30, 2004

American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference, Orlando

CONNECTION

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Articles for inclusion in a
future issue of the
Connection are welcomed.
Please submit articles or
suggestions to the *Connection*
editor, Sarah Dalton.



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